

October 2007
NASDSE Conference
Presenter Biographies

High School Redesign: Expanding Resources and Opportunities through School/Business Partnerships

Jay Engeln, Resident Practitioner for School/Business Partnerships, National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP)

Judith C. Richardson, Associate Director for School Improvement, NASSP

Ellen Romett, Managing Director, Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network

Jay Engeln has 28 years of experience in education and currently serves as the National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) Resident Practitioner for School/Business Partnerships. Honors include the 2000 National Secondary School Principal of the Year, the U.S. West Outstanding Teacher Award, Kappa Delta Pi Award for Contributions to Education and 1999 Colorado Principal of the Year. Engeln was a speaker at the White House Conference on Teenagers and provided testimony for a Congressional hearing on the benefits of school/business partnerships. He is an advisor for the Council for Corporate and School Partnerships in Washington, DC and member of the U. S. Chamber of Commerce - Business Education Network Steering Committee. During his tenure as principal of William J. Palmer High School, more than 100 school/business partnerships were in place generating revenue and services that were critical to maintaining essential programs that positively impacted student success.

Judith C. Richardson is currently associate director for school improvement for NASSP. As such, she shares information with school/administrative teams on ways to utilize local school assessment data to drive school reform and on ways to implement the reform strategies and tools from *Breaking Ranks II* and *Breaking Ranks in the Middle* to improve student achievement. Judith was an urban secondary principal in the District of Columbia Public Schools, where she also served as a central office administrator, high school principal, principal mentor, assistant principal, program director, mathematics chairperson and teacher. She has guided school improvement by closely monitoring instruction, implementing targeted staff development, utilizing disaggregated standardized test data in program design and initiating a national award-winning business partnership. Ms. Richardson has served as assessment team chairperson for the Middle States Accreditation Association and as a full-time and part-time mathematics professor at the University of Pittsburgh and the University of the District of Columbia.

Ellen S. Romett, Ph.D. is the managing director of the Pennsylvania Training and Technical Assistance Network (PaTTAN), Pittsburgh Office, a personnel development project of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. She leads a team of educational consultants and support staff in the development and delivery of training and technical assistance activities to improve the performance of Pennsylvania's struggling students, including students with disabilities. Dr. Romett currently leads the state's secondary transition and school-based mental health efforts and in this role she advises the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania regarding program policy and effective practices. During 2007-08, the secondary transition initiative will address the challenges and demands of meeting the needs of struggling secondary students. Working in cooperation with the state's high school reform effort, Project 720, PaTTAN will provide training around identifying the critical system components for meeting the needs of schools hardest to serve youth. Training will address data collection and analysis and the performance indicators of student success.